February is Black History Month. This has been a tradition and celebration in the United States since 1926, each year marking the celebration with a theme. This year’s “A Century of Black Life, History and Culture”. Did you know:

- The first Black astronaut was Robert Henry Lawrence Jr., but he died before he could travel to space. The first Black astronaut in space was Guion Bluford in 1983.

- The first Black Nobel Peace Prize winner was Ralph J. Bunche, who won in 1950 for his mediation efforts in Palestine.

- Lincoln University in Oxford, Pennsylvania, became the first degree-granting historically Black university in 1854. Now, the U.S. has 106, including Florida A&M University in Tallahassee, North Carolina A&T University in Greensboro and Howard University in Washington.

- There are 46 Black members in the 114th Congress. The first Black senator was Hiram Rhodes Revels, who represented Mississippi from 1870 to 1871, and the first Black congresswoman was Shirley Chisholm, who represented New York for seven terms.

It is my sincere belief that Black history is American history, and these important contributors to the creation of the United States are to be remembered and celebrated every month, not just during Black History month. Find more Black History facts [here].

Best regards,

Taylor Kilburn
MSWSA Faculty Spotlight

Each month we will feature an OU-Tulsa MSW faculty member to help everyone get to know more familiar faces on campus. This month we feature the Director of the school of social work Dr. Julie Miller-Cribbs.

Have a faculty member you would love to see featured?
Have a question you want the faculty to answer?

Let me know at: Taylor.Kilburn@ou.edu

Julie Miller-Cribbs, PHD
Director & Professor
jmcribbs@ou.edu

Education Background: BA Psychology (with distinction), Urban Studies Program, MSW University of Chicago, School of Social Service Administration, PhD George Warren Brown School of Social Work Washington University

Classes Taught: Advanced Practice with populations at Risk, Seminar in Community Health, Resource Development

Years at OU: Since 2006

Experience in the field: Social Work Practice: Emergency Room Social Worker, Outreach Services Coordinator, Family Crisis Counselor, Social Work Intern at Laureate Psychiatric Hospital, Field Work Placement at Neon Street Center for Youth, Prevention of Child Abuse, Urban Studies Intern, Training and Education Department, Facilitator, Body Image Support Network. Academic Appointments: Director & Professor at University of Oklahoma School of Social Work, IT³ Research Fellow, Early Childhood Education Institute at OU-Tulsa, Research Associate Professor, School of Community Medicine, OU-Tulsa, Assistant Professor, University of South Carolina College of Social Work, Affiliate Faculty, University of South Carolina Women’s Studies Program, Member, Research Consortium on Children and Families, University of South Carolina, Teaching Fellow, Washington University George Warren Brown School of Social Work.

What do you love most about social work: There is so much to be proud of about social work and we are on the heels of amazing women and men who have dedicated their lives to empowering individuals and communities. I am inspired every day when I think about the hard work we do, the amazing accomplishments this work has achieved and the current challenges that social workers face right now. There are social workers all over the world, some who put their lives on the line every day to achieve social justice and I have been lucky to meet some of them. Our profession is simply awesome.

Favorite course to teach & why: This is complicated... I always love working with students but I'll say this: Seminar in Community Health – because it is interdisciplinary and I love watching our students interact and learn in interprofessional settings. International Child Welfare exchange – because it is amazing to experience our students learning in another country learn about social work – and to see the connections they make with social workers across the world. And last, but not least – it doesn’t matter what class – but I absolutely love the work we are doing with simulation – it is such a dynamic and exciting way to teach and to learn – and we are only going to expand and grow these experiences.

One thing you would like all MSW students to take away from their time in the program: While you are in the program – be an active part of the process and let yourself be a student. Worry less about grades, getting through the class and assignments, and ‘content’ and fall in love with being a learner. Explore new ideas, make new friends, allow yourself to be vulnerable, listen to critique without defensiveness, challenge yourself to try something different, really practice self-awareness and mindfulness, take advantage of AS MANY of the opportunities that a college campus affords you (free lectures, working on research, student events, speakers, art, cultural night). If you do these things while you are in the program, you will be a much stronger social worker in the long run.
Graduation Party
Saturday May 2
6-10 PM
Dilly Deli
402 E 2nd St
Tulsa, OK
All graduating students and one guest are welcome to attend.

Did you Miss ordering a shirt last semester?
Tired of seeing all the cool kids wearing their Social Work shirts and feeling left out?
We’ve got you covered!

Advising Week

Tuesday, March 10, 2015
Learning Center Study Room,
4:30-5:30 pm
Lori Franklin and Amy Arnold will be available in between classes for advisement and program information

Thursday March 12, 2015
Learning Center, 9:00-1:30 am
All faculty advisors will be attending the Professional Development Day and will be available for advising

NASW OKLAHOMA CHAPTER:
Annual State Conference
April 26-28, 2015, Embassy Suites Hotel & Conference Center, Norman, OK
Students are invited to attend this event, and may use student funds ($250 allocated to each student every school year) for travel expenses.

Professional Development Day
March 12, 2015 | Founders Hall 9-4

Join us for: Jim Marks’ informational session on professional licensure, NASW representative Mary Jo Kinzie, agency booths, break out sessions on self-care, resume prep, interviewing skills and more!

Please RSVP here if you plan to attend! Lunch will be provided.
Upcoming Events

MSWSA General Meeting

Saturday, February 21
12 PM in LC135

Professional Development Day

Thursday, March 12
Founders Hall

Shirt Orders Due

Friday March 27
To any MSWSA officer or Dr. Havig in room 3J34

MSWSA T-Shirt Order Form

Return order form (with payment) to any MSWSA Officer or Dr. Havig in room 3J34
Orders Due March 27, 2015

Name:____________________________________ Phone:____________________________

Email:________________________________________

Available sizes: S-3XL

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